

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03546 060216Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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O 060035Z OCT 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5933  
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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3546

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, US, SF, WA  
SUBJECT: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF OCTOBER 4

REF: (A) USUN 3449; (B) PRETORIA 5183

1 . SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION OCTOBER  
4 BRITISH DRAFT OF TALKING POINTS FOR USE IN BRIEFING  
IN NEW YORK OF OFFICIALS OF FRONTLINE STATES AND NIGERIA (FONMINS  
AND PERM REPS), BRITISH RELUCTANCE TO CONDUCT BRIEFING OF  
AFRICANS IN OPEN AND FORTHCOMING MANNER BECAME CLEARLY  
EVIDENT. THE BRITISH DRAFT PAINTED EXTREMELY ROSY PICTURE  
OF LATEST ROUND OF CONTACT GROUP TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA,  
AVOIDING ALL NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF TALKS, AND PRESENTED  
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LATEST SOUTH AFRICA WITHDRAWAL PLAN ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS.  
IN INTEREST OF OPENNESS AND INSTRUCTIVENESS OF UPCOMING  
BRIEFING, USUN INSISTED ON MAJOR CHANGES TO WHICH BRITISH  
RELUCTANTLY AGREED. BRIEFING OF FRONTLINE STATES AND  
NIGERIA AS GROUP HAS BEEN SECHEDULED FOR 1650 OCTOBER 5.  
END SUMMARY.

2. WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP MET AM OCTOBER 4 TO DISCUSS BRITISH DRAFT OF TALKING POINTS FOR USE IN UPCOMING BRIEFING BY WESTERN FIVE PERM REPS IN NEW YORK (REF A) OF OFFICIALS OF FRONTLINE STATES AND NIGERIA (FOREIGN MINISTERS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES). ON LATEST ROUND OF CONTACT GROUP TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. BRITISH DRAFT PAINTED UNBELIEVABLE ROSY PICTURE. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE ARGUMENTATIVE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS, OF THE INITIAL SOUTH AFRICAN REJECTION OF THE CONCEPT OF SUBSTANTIAL SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, OF THEIR OBJECTION TO A SUBSTANTIAL UN MILITARY PRESENCE, NOR OF THE KICKING AND SCREAMING HEARD AS THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE DRAGGED TO THEIR LATEST WITHDRAWAL PROPOSAL. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE ACTUAL NUMBERS OF TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN AT EACH STAGE OR OF THE NUMBER WHICH WOULD REMAIN OR OF THEIR LOCATION.

3. AMB MCHENRY LODGED STRONG OPPOSITION IN CONTACT GROUP MEETING TO THE DRAFT, WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE. HE STRESSED REPEATEDLY THAT TALKING POINTS MUST BE HONEST ACCOUNT OF TALKS, THAT WE MUST PRESENT FACTS CONCERNING CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON NAMIBIA INITIATIVE OPENLY AND OBJECTIVELY IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY, OR HAVE ANY HOPE OF OBTAINING FRONTLINE AND NIGERIAN VIEWS AND, AT A LATER DATE, SUPPORT OF OUR INITIATIVE. GENERALIZATIONS WOULD ONLY LEAD TO QUESTIONS ON SPECIFIC  
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DETAILS OF TIMING, SIZE AND LOCATIONS OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL. OUR FAILURE TO RESPOND WOULD IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATE THE FEELING THAT WE HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE OR DID NOT TRUST OUR AUDIENCE.

4. AFTER PRESSING OUR POINT, AND WITH RESERVED SUPPORT FROM CANADIANS, FRENCH, AND GERMANS, WE PERSUADED BRITISH TO ACCEPT OUR POSITION. BRITISH HAD OPPOSED IT ON GROUNDS THAT A FORTHCOMING AND DETAILED DISCUSSION OF OUR TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD LEAD TO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND DEBATE OF SUBSTANCE OF TALKS AND WOULD RISK LEADING TO A PUBLIC COMMITMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA NOT TO ACCEPT ANY FURTHER WITHDRAWALS.

5. COMMENT: MEETING BROUGHT OUT VIVIDLY BRITISH DISCOMFORT WITH OPEN APPROACH TO FRONTLINE STATES AND NIGERIA AND ILLUSTRATES ONE OF THE REASONS AFRICANS DIS-TRUST AND ARE IMPATIENT WITH UK. MEETING ALSO BROUGHT OUT BRITISH DESIRE TO PAINT SOUTH AFRICA AS A COOPERATIVE PARTNER IN THE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS AND TO SEE THE CONTACT GROUP INCREASE PRESSURE ON SWAPO AND REDUCE THAT ON SOUTH AFRICA. AMB MURRAY STATED IN MEETING

THAT FONMIN OWEN HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS TIME CONTACT GROUP BEGAN FOCUSING PRESSURE ON SWAPO AND THAT SIR DAVID SCOTT (UK AMB TO SOUTH AFRICA) STRONGLY FELT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE PRESSED TO MAKE FURTHER CHANGES. END COMMENT.

6. BRITISH ARE NOW REWRITING DRAFT TALKING POINTS IN LIGHT OF CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION AND WILL PRESENT THEM TO CONTACT GROUP EARLY AM OCTOBER 5.

7. CONTACT GROUP HAS NOT YET SET UP BRIEFINGS OF UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AHTISARRI NOR OF BUREAU OF UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA. WE WILL DISCUSS TALKING POINTS FOR THESE AND OTHER POSSIBLE BRIEFINGS IN NEAR FUTURE. CONFIDENTIAL

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8. SINCE THIS CABLE WAS DRAFTED, BRITISH HAVE SUBMITTED REDRAFT TO CONTACT GROUP. REDRAFT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY CONTACT GROUP AND FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. YOUNG

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